

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of the claims replaces all prior listings in this application.

**LISTING**

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Previously Presented) A pellet of chromatography media of agarose, dextran or acrylamide/azlactone copolymer characterized by a coherent aggregate of distinct beads having a capacity to resist a force, as demonstrated by a Schleuinger Pharmatron hardness of at least about 2 Kilo Ponds, and capable of being rapidly hydrated on addition of water to form a gel where said media has been derivatized with a ligand.
3. (Currently Amended) The pellet of Claim 2 where said ligand is selected from the group consisting of Protein L, Protein A, Protein G, streptavidin, and glutathione, ~~and sugar~~.
4. (Currently Amended) The pellet of Claim 3 where ~~said sugar is selected from the group consisting of sucrose, trehalose, and sorbitol~~ said media is chelated with metal.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of using a pelletized chromatography media of agarose, dextran or acrylamide/azlactone copolymer characterized by a coherent aggregate of distinct beads having a capacity to resist a force, as demonstrated by a Schleuinger Pharmatron hardness of at least about 2 Kilo Ponds, including the step of rapidly hydrating the media to form a gel.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 where the media is hydrated with a fluid selected from the group consisting of water and an aqueous buffer selected based on the desired chromatographic application.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 where the fluid for hydration is water.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6 where hydration of the media is complete within 120 seconds.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of hydrating a pellet consisting essentially of an aggregate of distinct beads of a chromatography media composed of crosslinked agarose, dextran or acrylamide/azlactone where the pellet is coherent and capable of resisting force, as demonstrated by a Schleuinger Pharmatron hardness of at least about 2 Kilo Ponds, including the step of adding water to the pellet which hydrates within 120 seconds to form a gel wherein said beads are swollen and substantially uniformly dispersed.

10. (New) The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of chelating the media with a metal.

11. (New) The method of claim 10 where the media is cross-linked agarose and the chelating metal is nickel.

12. (New) The pellet of claim 4 where the media is cross-linked agarose and the chelating metal is nickel.